

STATEMENT AND ARGUMENT

Self – Evaluation Test

Directions: Each question given below consists of a statement, followed by two arguments numbered I and II. You have to decide which of the arguments a 'strong' argument is and which a 'weak' argument is.

1. **Statement:** Should there be an upper age limit of 65 years for contesting Parliamentary, Legislative Assembly elections?

Arguments:

I. Yes. Generally, people above the age of 65 lose their dynamism and will power.

II. No. The life span is so increased that people remain physically and mentally active even up to the age of 80.

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

2. **Statement:** Should new big industries be started in Mumbai?

Arguments:

I. Yes. It will create job opportunities.

II. No. It will further add to the pollution of the city.

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

3. **Statement:** Should night chimneys be installed in industries?

Arguments:

I. Yes. It reduces pollution at ground level.

II. No. It increases pollution in upper atmosphere.

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

4. **Statement:** Does India need so many plans for development?

Arguments:

I. Yes. Nothing can be achieved without proper planning.
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II. No. Too much time, money and energy is wasted on planning,
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- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

5. **Statement:** Should articles of only deserving authors be allowed to be published?

Arguments:

I. Yes. It will save a lot of paper which is in short supply.

II. No. It is not possible to draw a line between the deserving and the undeserving.
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- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

6. **Statement:** Should colleges be given the status of a university in India?

Arguments:

I. Yes. Colleges are in a better position to assess the student's performance and therefore the degrees will be more valid.

II. No. It is Utopian to think that there will not be nepotism and corruption in awarding degrees by colleges.
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- (a) Only argument I is strong (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

7. **Statement:** Should the prestigious people who have committed crime unknowingly, be met with special treatment?

Arguments:

I. Yes. The prestigious people do not commit crime intentionally.

II. No. It is our policy that everybody is equal before the law.
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- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

8. **Statement:** Can pollution be controlled?

Arguments:

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|--|
| I. Yes. If everyone realizes the hazards it may create and cooperates to get rid of it pollution may be controlled. |
| II. No. The crowded highways factories and industries and an ever-growing population eager to acquire more and more land for constructing houses are beyond control. |

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

9. **Statement:** Should the railways in India be privatized in a phased manner like other public sector enterprises?

Arguments:

- | |
|---|
| I. Yes. This is the only way to bring in competitiveness and provide better services to the public. |
| II. No. This will pose a threat to the national security of our country as multinationals will enter into the fray. |

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

10. **Statement:** Should internal assessment in colleges be abolished?

Arguments:

- | |
|---|
| I. Yes. This will help in reducing the possibility of favoritism. |
| II. No, teaching faculty will lose control over students. |

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

11. **Statement:** Should all the unauthorized structures in the city be demolished?

Arguments:

- | |
|---|
| I. No. Where will the people residing in such houses live? |
| II. Yes. This will give a clear message to general public and they will refrain from constructing unauthorized buildings. |

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

12. Statement: Should there be a maximum limit for the number of ministers in the Central Government?

Arguments:

I. No. The political party in power should have the freedom to decide the number of ministers to be appointed.

II. Yes. The number of ministers should be restricted to a certain percentage of the total number of seats in the parliament to avoid unnecessary expenditure.

- (a) Only argument I is strong (b) Only argument II is strong
(c) Either I or II is strong (d) Neither I nor II is strong
(e) Both I and II are strong

13. Statement: Should foreign films be banned in India?

Arguments:

I. Yes. They depict an alien culture which adversely affects our values.

II. No. Foreign films are of a high artistic standard.

- (a) Only argument I is strong
(b) Only argument II is strong
(c) Either I or II is strong
(d) Neither I nor II is strong
(e) Both I and II are strong

14. Statement: Is buying things on instalments profitable to the customer?

Arguments:

I. Yes. He has to pay less.

II. No, paying instalments upsets the family budget.

- (a) Only argument I is strong
(b) Only argument II is strong
(c) Either I or II is strong
(d) Neither I nor II is strong
(e) Both I and II are strong

15. Statement: Should Doordarshan be given autonomous status?

Arguments:

I. Yes. It will help Doordarshan to have fair and impartial coverage of all important events.
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II. No. The coverage of events will be decided by a few who may not have healthy outlook.
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- (a) Only argument I is strong
(b) Only argument II is strong
(c) Either I or II is strong
(d) Neither I nor II is strong
(e) Both I and II are strong

16. Statement: Should adult education programme be given priority over compulsory education programme?

Arguments:

I. No. It will also help in success of compulsory education programme.

II. Yes. It will help to eliminate the adult illiteracy.

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

17. Statement: Should new universities be established in India?

Arguments:

I. No. We have still not achieved the target for literacy.

II. No. We will have to face the problem of unemployed but highly qualified people.
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- (a) Only argument I is strong (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

18. Statement: Should non-vegetarian food be totally banned in our country?

Arguments:

I. Yes. It is expensive and therefore, it is beyond the means of most people in our country.

II. No. Nothing should be banned in a democratic country like ours.
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- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

19. Statement: Should a total ban be put on trapping wild animals?

Arguments:

I. Yes. Trappers are making a lot of money;
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II. No. Bans on hunting and trapping are not effective.
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- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

20. Statement: Should Government close down loss-making public sector enterprises?

Arguments:

I. No. All employees will lose their jobs, security and earning, what would they do?

II. Yes. In a competitive world the rule is 'survival of the fittest'.

- (a) Only argument I is strong
- (b) Only argument II is strong
- (c) Either I or II is strong
- (d) Neither I nor II is strong
- (e) Both I and II are strong

Answer – Key

1. D	2. C	3. B	4. A	5. B
6. D	7. B	8. C	9. D	10. A
11. B	12. B	13. D	14. D	15. A
16. B	17. E	18. B	19. D	20. A

Explanation

1. Explanation

Option (D) is correct.

The age of a person is no criterion for judging his mental capabilities and administrative qualities. So, none of the arguments holds strong.

2. Explanation

Option (C) is correct.

Opening up of new industries is advantageous in opening more employment avenues, and disadvantageous in that it adds to the pollution. So, either of the arguments holds strong.

3. Explanation

Option (A) is correct.

Pollution at ground level is the most hazardous in the way of being injurious to human and animal life. So, argument I alone holds.

4. Explanation

Option (A) is correct.

Before indulging in new development programme it is much necessary to plan the exact target, policies and their implementation and the allocation of funds which shows the right direction to work. So, argument I holds strong. Also, planning ensures full utilization of available resources and funds and stepwise approach towards the target. So, spending a part of money on it is no wastage. Thus, argument II is not valid.

5. Explanation

Option (B) is correct.

Clearly, I does not provide a strong reason in support of the statement. Also, it is not possible to analyze the really deserving and not deserving. So, argument II holds strong.

6. Explanation

Option (D) is correct.

Clearly, at the college level, all the students are assessed according to their performance in the University Exams and not on the basis of any criteria of a more intimate dealings with the students. So, argument I is vague. Also, at this level the awarding of degrees is impartial and simply based on his performance. So, argument II also does not hold.

7. Explanation

Option (B) is correct.

The Constitution of India has laid down the doctrine of 'equality before the law'. So, argument II holds strong. Also, we cannot judge the intentions of a person behind committing a crime. So, argument I is vague.

8. Explanation

Option (C) is correct.

The control of pollution, on one hand, seems to be impossible because of the ever-growing needs and the disconcert of the people but, on the other hand, the control is possible by a joint effort. So, either of the arguments will hold strong.

9. Explanation

Option (D) is correct.

Privatization would no doubt lead to better services. But saying that this is the 'only way' is wrong. So, argument I does not hold. Argument II also seems to be vague.

10. Explanation

Option (A) is correct.

Abolishing the internal assessment would surely reduce favoritism on personal grounds because the teachers would not be involved in examination system so that they cannot extend personal benefits to anyone. So, argument I holds strong. But it will not affect the control of teaching faculty on students because still the teachers would be teaching them. So, argument II is vague.

11. Explanation

Option (B) is correct.

The demolition of unauthorized buildings would teach a lesson to the unscrupulous builders and also serve as a warning for the citizens not to indulge in such activities in the future. This is essential, as unauthorized constructions impose undue burden on the city's infrastructure. So, only argument II holds strong.

12. Explanation

Option (B) is correct.

Clearly, there should be some norms regarding the number of ministers in the Government, as more number of ministers would unnecessarily add to the Government expenditure.

So, argument II holds strong; also, giving liberty to the party in power could promote extension of unreasonable favour to some people at the cost of government funds. So, argument I does not hold.

13. Explanation

Option (D) is correct.

Clearly, foreign films depict the alien culture but this only helps in learning more. So, argument I does not hold. Also, the reason stated in argument II is not strong enough in contradicting the ban. So, it also does not hold.

14. Explanation

Option (D) is correct.

In buying things on instalments, a customer has to pay more as the interest is also included.

So, argument I does not hold. Moreover, one who buys an item on instalments maintains his future budget accordingly as he is well acquainted with when and how much he has to pay, beforehand. So, argument II is also not valid.

15. Explanation

Option (A) is correct.

Clearly, the autonomous status of the Doordarshan will be a step towards giving it independence for an impartial coverage. Autonomous status does not mean that the coverage will be decided by a few. So, only argument I holds.

16. Explanation

Option (B) is correct.

Clearly, argument I gives a reason in support of the statement and so it does not hold strong against it. The adult education programme needs to be given priority because it shall eliminate adult illiteracy and thus help in further spread of education. So, only argument II is strong enough.

17. Explanation

Option (E) is correct.

Clearly, instead of improving upon higher education, increasing the literacy rate should be heeded first. So, argument I holds. Also, more number of universities will produce more degree holders with the number of jobs remaining the same, thus, increasing unemployment. So, argument II also holds strong.

18. Explanation

Option (B) is correct.

Clearly, restriction on the diet of people will be denying them their basic human right. So, only argument II holds.

19. Explanation

Option (D) is correct.

Clearly, ban is necessary to protect our natural environment. So, none of the arguments is strong enough.

20. Explanation

Option (A) is correct.

Closing down public-sector enterprises will definitely throw the engaged persons out of employment. So, argument I holds. Also, closing down is no solution for a loss-making enterprise. Rather, its causes of failure should be studied, analyzed and the essential reforms implemented. Even if this does not work out, the enterprise may be privatized. So, argument II is vague.